

The William Mecum House
Lower Penns Neck, Salem County, New Jersey
SALEM VICINITY

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The William Mecum House
Lower Penns Neck, Salem County, New Jersey

Owner: Honorable Charles Mecum

Date of Erection: Older unit early 1700's;
later unit 1737

Architect:

Builder: William Mecum

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brick

Exterior walls - brick,
Flemish bond on front
of 1737 addition

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - present pitch, older
section apparently gambrel
similar to the Oakford Houses,
NJ-127 and NJ-349

Historical Data:

The Mecum family came from England and settled in Lower Penns Neck sometime before 1700. The first William Mecum built a house here early in the 1700's and added to it in 1737. The gable bears the initials "W. M." and that date.

The first William Mecum was a judge in the Colonial Courts of Salem County. After his death the property passed to his son William, Jr. likewise a judge in the Colonial Courts. The second William Mecum served as a major in the Revolutionary War. The property was inherited by his grandson James W. Mecum who was also a judge of the Salem Courts. His son, the Honorable Charles Mecum, likewise a former judge of the Salem Courts, inherited the property. It is probably the only property in Salem County on which no conveyance has been made since the original deed, except a quick claim deed from William Penn to William Mecum. There is no other deed on record in the Salem County Court House.

Bibliography:

Sickler, J. S. The Old Houses of Salem County Salem, Sunbeam Publishing Company, 1934

Walter E. List
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

DW 7/28/37